

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

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FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1053

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0273

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: PQ'S FIRST FUMBLE

REF: A. QUEBEC 0258, B. QUEBEC 0261

1. PARLIAMENTARY FUMBLE BY PQ IN THEIR ATTEMPT STIFLE DEBATE  
BY SUBSTITUTING LANGUAGE BILL 101 FOR BILL 1 HAS RESULTED IN  
EMBARRASSING IMBROGLIO. OPPOSITION, DISPLAYING UNUSUALLY DEFT TACTICS

IN ASSEMBLY, HAVE SUCCEEDED IN INTRODUCING MOTION OF CENSURE  
AGAINST PQ HOUSE LEADER ROBERT BURNS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
MINISTER CAMILLE LAURIN. MOTION IS BEING DEBATED BY ASSEMBLY TODAY.

2. MOST DRAMATIC ELEMENT THUSFAR IN SORRY AFFAIR HAS BEEN  
YESTERDAY'S PUBLIC THREAT BY BURNS TO RESIGN HIS POST AS PQ  
PARLIAMENTARY LEADER. BURNS, SMARTING UNDER WHAT HE INTERPRETED  
AS AN UNJUST ATTEMPT PLACE BLAME ON HIM FOR QUESTIONABLE  
STRATEGY, AND FROM LACK OF SUPPORT FROM PM, INSISTED THAT DEBATE  
OF MOTION SHOULD IDENTIFY REAL CULPRITS AND CLEAR HIS  
ESCUTCHEON. (HE TOLD PRESS THAT LEVESQUE'S CHEF DE CABINET LOUIS  
BERNARD WAS THE REAL AUTHOR OF THE UNSUCCESSFUL PARLIAMENTARY  
MANEUVER.) AS DEBATE BEGAN THIS AFTERNOON, BURNS INFORMED ASSEMBLY HE  
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WOULD NOT TAKE PART IN DISCUSSION OF MOTION WHICH CONCERNED HIM  
PERSONALLY AND LEFT CHAMBER. LEVESQUE AND LAURIN DEPARTED SHORTLY  
AFTER. THUS, IT APPEARS AT THIS WRITING LEVESQUE IS NOT PLANNING  
MAKE ANTICIPATED STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGING HIS GOVERNMENT'S  
CLUMBSINESS AND, AS WAS WIDELY PRESUMED, CLEARING BURNS OF  
RESPONSIBILITY. IF THIS IS CASE, BURNS MAY HAVE NO GRACEFUL  
RECOURSE BUT TO RESIGN.

3. COMMENT: BURNS IS UNDISPUTEDLY THE PQ'S MOST EXPERIENCED  
PARLIAMENTARY TACTICIAN. HOWEVER, HE MAY HAVE OUTLIVED HIS USEFULNESS

.  
ILL-CONSIDERED PUBLIC OUTBURST IN WHICH HE IMPLICATED  
LEVESQUE HIMSELF BY NAMING ONE OF PM'S MOST TRUSTED AIDES  
AS AUTHOR OF UNSUCCESSFUL STRATEGY PROBABLY LEFT PM LITTLE  
CHOICE BUT TO ALLOW BURNS TO COMMIT POLITICAL "HARI KIRI." THIS  
WILL BE PQ'S FIRST PUBLIC CABINET CRISIS. LEVESQUE IS LIKELY WEATHER  
IT  
WITH ONLY MINOR BRUISES FOR BURNS HAS ALIENATED A NUMBER OF  
HIS PARTY MATES BY HIS FREQUENT DISPLAYS OF INSENSITIVE  
ARROGANCE. THUS, THERE MAY NOT BE MANY WHO WILL RISE TO HIS  
DEFENCE. HIS DEPARTURE COULD ALSO STRENGTHEN MODERATES IN CABINET  
FOR BURNS IS ONE OF FEW RADICAL FIREBRANDS TO HAVE MADE IT  
INTO LEVESQUE'S CABINET. THIS SURPRISING SUCCESS IN EMBARRASSING  
PQ IS FIRST BLOOD FOR PREVIOUSLY LACKLUSTRE OPPOSITION. THEIR  
CHALLENGE OF QUESTIONABLE PARLIAMENTARY TACTICS EMPLOYED BY PQ IS LIK  
ELY  
FORTIFY THEIR CHARGES OF PQ AUTHORITARIANISM.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEBATES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, LEGISLATIVE BILLS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977QUEBEC00273  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770262-0344  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Line Count:** 83  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 22ddea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 QUEBEC 258, 77 QUEBEC 261  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1790136  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PQ'S FIRST FUMBLE  
**TAGS:** PINT, CA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/22ddea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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